Financial loss due to New Telecom Policy

2478. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Telecom Policy has led to a loss of over Rs. 13,000 crores to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the financial loss to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Concession to senior citizens for providing telephone connections

2479. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether separate waiting list is maintained for providing telephone connections to senior citizens;

(b) whether some concession is given to telephone call charges or more free calls to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time fixed for providing them telephone connections after registrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Senior citizens of the age 65 years and above are eligible to register their demand for one telephone connection under Non-0YT-Special category, which is a priority category.

(b) and (c) Senior citizens are entitled to register one telephone without any registration charges. Installation, rental and call charges etc. are payable at normal rates like other subscribers.

(d) Telephone connections are provided as and when turn matures in the Non-OYT-Special category, which is a priority category.